



Tempe Public Art



Rebecca Ross & Jeff East

*River Then, River Now,
River Future, 2000*

Assistants: Michelle Lowe, Amy
Rey, Cyndi Salter, Rand Smith,
and Samuel Swail

Handmade and photo-silkscreened
ceramic tiles, Dryvit panels

Location: Red Mountain Freeway
North Bank of Tempe Town Lake

Photo: Craig Smith

Description: The 545-foot long mural project consists of more than 15,000 handmade tiles, and is the result of four years of involvement from the Tempe community. An estimated 3,500 participants, ranging from school-aged children to senior citizens, created collaborative handmade tiles. The project grew to include involvement from groups such as Pueblo Grande Museum, Tempe Historical Museum and the Southwest Center for Education in the Natural Environment. The imagery represents the past, present, and future of the Salt River area. Viewed from a distance, the mural panels create a colorful ribbon of movement along the lake. Up close, the tiles reveal a vast array of detailed images. Photo silk-screened tiles were created using photos selected from the Tempe Historical Museum. Contemporary photos by Rebecca Ross were reproduced onto ceramic tiles to characterize the present and imagined future of the area.

Artist biography: Jeff East is a ceramicist and teacher at McKemy Middle School. His work has been exhibited throughout the United States in more than 50 exhibitions.

Rebecca Ross has received numerous awards for her photography including a Visual Arts Fellowship and Artist Project Grant from the Arizona Commission on the Arts and public art commissions for the cities of Phoenix, Tempe, and Scottsdale. Her work is included in art collections including the Museum of Fine Arts-Houston and the Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center at University of Texas-Austin. She was selected 2002 Artist Educator of the Year by the Scottsdale Cultural Council for her work with disadvantaged youth.
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